

Over the past 150 years, Seattle has transformed from a pioneer settlement to a global commercial center. Timber, railroad, maritime trade and Alaskan gold brought prosperity to the city as it entered the 20th century. Seattle grew rapidly as people arrived and businesses opened to support these industries.

In just the two decades between 1900 and 1920, the city's population leapt from 80,000 to over 315,000. Inspired by the "City Beautiful" ideals displayed at the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, the City commissioned its first comprehensive plan in 1911. Known as the Bogue Plan, after the engineer Virgil Bogue who devised the plan, it provided a guide for development and public improvements needed for a city of one million residents. Although never adopted, it included proposals for park and harbor development that ultimately were realized.

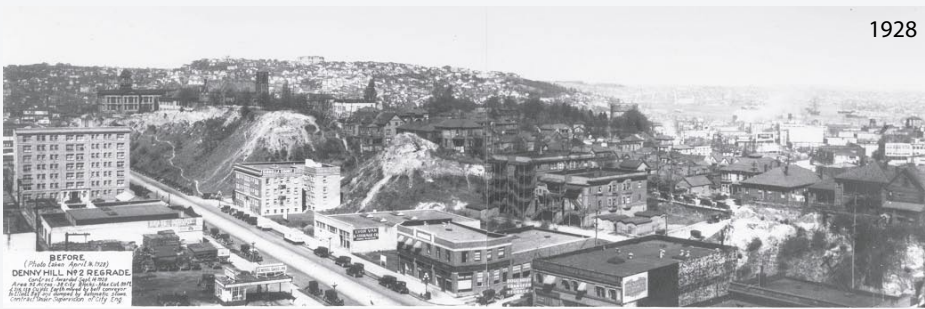
During this era, the City's planning efforts focused on accomplishing formidable engineering projects – reshaping the topography to level the ground and filling in the tide flats to improve the harbor and expand the area to build on. The streetcar played an important role in moving people around in the rapidly developing city, and greatly influenced neighborhood development patterns that remain in place today. Planning advocates also sought to improve living conditions, and zoning emerged as an approach to separate incompatible activities and define minimum standards for light and air. When the City adopted its first zoning ordinance in 1923, Seattle became one of the first cities in the United States to employ zoning.



Colman Dock c. 1915



Yesler and 2nd 1913



1928



1936



1964

*"With Mount Rainier looming over the city on the south, the rising terraces of encircling hills, the lofty snow-capped Olympic peaks closing the westward view beyond a harbor unsurpassed, it would appear that greater opportunities for high and permanent distinction never fell within the privilege of a municipality."*

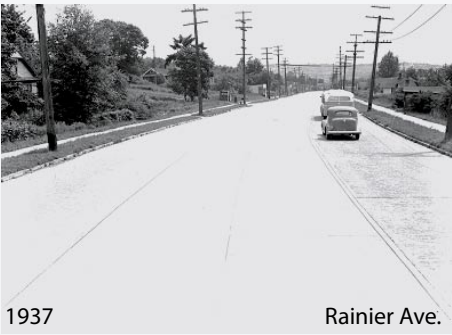
-- Virgil Bogue, 1911



Bogue Plan 1911



1936



1937

Rainier Ave.